

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 SS-20 DODE-00 H-03

IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /078 W

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R 110830Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1936

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PINS, JO

SUBJ: FAA SECTION 32 -- POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: STATE 068545

1. CONSISTENT PATTERN OF INTERNMENT OR IMPRISONMENT OF CITIZENS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, AS DEFINED REFTEL, NOT PRESENT IN JORDAN. AMNESTY ACT OF SEPT-EMBER 1973 STIPULATED RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS EXCEPT THOSE CONVICTED OF EXPIONAGE, AL-THOUGH SOME INDIVIDUALS STILL DETAINED UNDER SEPARATE MILITARY LAW GOING BACK TO 1970 UP-RISING. THIS MILITARY LAW ADMINISTERED BY PM.

2. JORDANIAN LAW PROVIDES FOR DUE PROCESS RE ARREST, DETENTION, AND TRIAL OF CITIZENS, AS WELL AS PRO-HIBITING ARBITRARY ARREST. LITTLE DOUBT THAT OCCA-SIONAL ABUSES OF THESE LAWS OCCUR, BUT INCREASING STABILITY IN COUNTRY AFTER 1970 DISTURBANCES ENCOURAGING STRICTER OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES (AS EVIDENCED BY AMNESTY ACT). PRESENCE OF ARMED AND SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS ACTIVELY WORKING FOR OVERTHROW OF HASHEMITE THRONE VIA ASSASSINATION AND SABATAGE PLACE LIMITATIONS ON GOJ'S ABILITY FULLY IMPLEMENT THESE GUARANTEES IN EVERY CASE. THESE LIMITATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE JORDANIAN PRACTICE CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS "SUBSTANTIAL AND CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF ABOVE STANDARDS OCCURRING AS MATTER
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OF OFFICIAL POLICY OR OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE ON PART OF GOVE"

(REFTEL).

3. JORDAN, WHICH PLAYS KEY ROLE IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS, HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON US ECONOMIC AND MIL ASSISTANCE. CONSEQUENTLY THREATENED WITHDRAWAL OF SUCH ASSISTANCE TO ATTEMPT EFFECT CHANGES IN DETENTION PROCEDURES WOULD PLACE CURRENT PRO-U.S. GOVT IN EXTREMELY PRECARIOUS POSITON. THIS IN TURN WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT CURRENT U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974AMMAN01936
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740083-0938
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740450/aaaabsst.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 068545
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAA SECTION 32 -- POLITICAL PRISONERS
TAGS: EAID, PINS, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005